Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The American family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, is the very foundation of our communities, our state and our nation; and,

Whereas, An average of 920 South Dakota children and youth require placement in family foster homes each month as a result of chronic or continuing abuse and/or neglect; and,

Whereas, South Dakota currently has 899 licensed family foster homes that provide twenty-four hour care and supervision for abused and/or neglected children; and,

Whereas, These families open their homes and hearts to children of the state of South Dakota whose families are in crisis, play a vital role helping children and families heal and reconnect and launch children into successful adulthood; and,

Whereas, Dedicated foster families frequently adopt children in foster care, resulting in a greater need for more foster families; and,

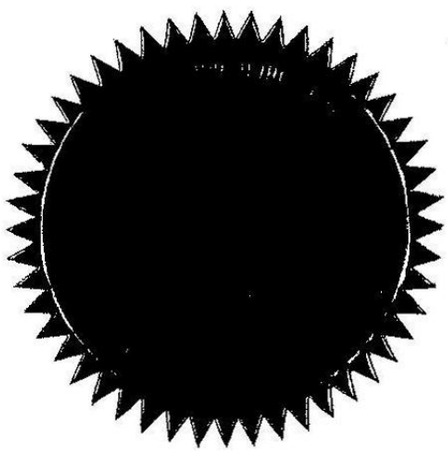
Whereas, There are numerous individuals and public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in and leaving foster care as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents, and the foster care "system" is only as good as those who choose to be part of it; and,

Whereas, May 2003, has been designated as National Foster Parent Month:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2003, as

FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION & AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all residents and citizens to volunteer their talents and energies on behalf of children in foster care, foster parents, and the professional staff working with them during this month and throughout the year.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State